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January 8, 2008

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-8-9

SUBJECT: LTP – FY2008 EQIP Revised Timeline For 1st and 2nd Sign-ups

Purpose: To provide a revised timeline for the FY 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date: This Bulletin expires September 30, 2008

Due Dates: January 18, 2008 and February 22, 2008

Background West Virginia's allocation for EQIP in FY08 is \$5,119,450 for financial assistance (FA). However, an additional \$3,365,324 FA has been placed in a drawing account for WV to satisfy regional equity. WV may request funds from the drawing account after obligating 95% of the original allocation and having demonstrated a need for additional funds through accumulated eligible applications. When a new Farm Bill is signed, rule changes are expected which will delay any additional contracting activity for EQIP. This may mean the loss of our chance at securing the Regional Equity Allocation for WV.

Explanation: We will now consider applications from the 1st (closed 11/16/2007) and 2nd (closed 12/28/2007) ranking periods together. Ranking of all applications and cost estimates must be completed by January 18, 2008 for consideration. Estimated cost will be used to allocate funds to the fund categories and the local work groups. All contracts must be obligated by February 22, 2008.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill O'Donnell, ASTC-Programs at 304-284-7543, or, JR Wolfe, Farm Bill Specialist at 304-284-7563.

/s/

KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: A,F

